

# Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

September 27, 2002, Ch: 2.1.2.

Treasurer, may I present to you and this Convocation The Honourable Claire L'Heureux-Dubé and request that you confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa.

The Honourable Claire L'Heureux-Dubé recently retired from the Supreme Court of Canada, ending yet another chapter in a remarkable life of public service. One of the great legal pioneers in this country, she has devoted her entire professional life to advancing and preserving women's rights and social justice. In doing so, she has been a source of inspiration for many women.

Born in Quebec City, Madame L'Heureux-Dubé earned her Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude at the College Notre-Dame de Bellvue in 1946, and her LL.L. cum laude from the Faculty of Law at Laval University in 1951. In 1952, after being called to the Quebec Bar, she entered private practice. Seventeen years later, in 1969, she became a Queen's Counsel. She accomplished all this at a time in Canadian history when women were still essentially unwelcome in the legal profession and were being encouraged, instead, to pursue careers more "befitting" their gender. Claire L'Heureux-Dubé had the courage to challenge the prevailing patriarchal ideologies and, in time, to shatter many of the socially accepted stereotypes. In 1973, Madame L'Heureux-Dubé became the first female judge to be appointed to the Quebec Superior Court and, in 1979, the first to be appointed to the Court of Appeal for Quebec. In 1987, she became the second woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

She is deserving of the highest honour this Society can give and I request you, Sir, to confer upon The Honourable Claire L'Heureux-Dubé the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.